

Jelly beans, anyone? While Easter remains a moveable feast, the official observance of National Jelly Bean Day takes place every year on April 22. More than 16 billion jelly beans are produced in the United States each year. The most popular flavor among kids? Cherry.



GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2014

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Town council approves \$10.6 million for new public safety facility

The Town Council has reached agreements on the final design of a new public safety building along with funding for the \$10.6 million facility.

Groundbreaking plans have been reconfigured and construction is expected to begin on the new building at Cottage Grove and Ridge Road in August. The new public safety facility is expected to be operational by late summer 2015.

Town Councilman Bernie Zemen said progress on moving underground lines and utility poles has been slower than anticipated. Colder-than-expected temperatures have also hampered work on the former residential properties.

The Town Council approved bond anticipation financing earlier this year, which provided immediate cash for site work until bonds could be sold to finance the project. At their last meeting in

March, the council voted to sell \$10.6 million in bonds, which will be repaid over the next 22 years.

"We are very pleased with the way the building is going to look and excited about the interior, which is going to give our police officers the tools they need to do their jobs," Council President Dan Vassar said.

"They have been making do with cramped quarters and a facility that was constructed before computers and wireless communication became the standard," he said.

"This is a necessary project that has been on the list for many years. I am proud that we, as a community, have been able to advance Lincoln Center and now, a new public safety facility. This is all about bringing our buildings into the 21st Century." 🐸

EMERGENCY AGREEMENT

Lake County has stepped up with a commitment of accountability in its new E-911 consolidated emergency dispatch system. As a result, the Town Council has given President Dan Vassar authorization to sign an interlocal agreement as early as April, committing Highland to the project.

Other holdout communities include Cedar Lake, Schererville and St. John. In exchange for their endorsement, the communities have received a written accountability agreement that requires spending limits, revenue sources and commitments on staffing. The countywide system is expected to be operational by Jan. 1, 2015.

CAR CRUISE ENTHUSIASTS

If you have a classic car or antique hot rod, you can be part of the first ever Highland Main Street Car Cruise, which debuts May 31 in downtown Highland. Mario DeGeorge, chair of the car cruise for Highland Main Street, is hoping that 150 or more vintage vehicles travel downtown for the event. Cars may be registered on-site the afternoon of the cruise. Vehicles will park along Highway Avenue and Jewett Street east of Kennedy Avenue, and in the municipal parking lots east and west of Kennedy Avenue along Highway.

INFO: Call Mario at (708) 250-1388.

2014 MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

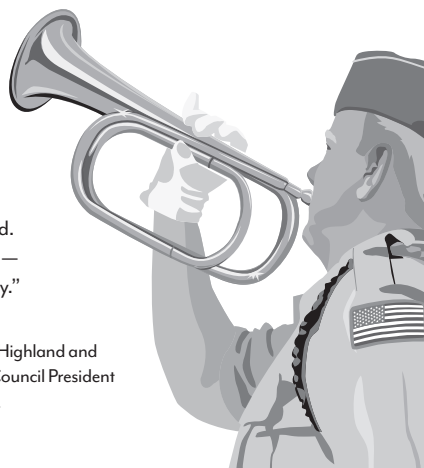
COUNCIL SEEKING VETERAN OR ENLISTED SOLDIER TO DELIVER TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS

Town Council President Dan Vassar wants to break tradition and offer a member of the military the honor of delivering the president's address during the Memorial Day celebration.

"I have the greatest respect for all members of the military, particularly those who hail from Highland," Vassar said.

"I want to offer this Memorial Day opportunity to a member of our community who has served our country — whether that is Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard or National Guard. These brave individuals risked everything to protect our country — to protect us — and I would love to honor them on Memorial Day."

HOW TO APPLY: If you are a military veteran or enlisted soldier from Highland and would like to deliver the traditional Memorial Day address, please call Council President Dan Vassar at (219) (219) 924-1945 or email dvassar@highland.in.gov.



... TOWN TICKER ...

Check out the faces of Highland during the **Spring Art Gallery** on display now at downtown businesses! Dozens of self-portraits created by elementary school students are already bringing smiles to our faces. Organized by Highland Main Street volunteers Joanna Smith and Dawn Diamantopoulos, a **"New You"** will be on display for a limited time. ... **Anytime Fitness** opens this month next to Strack's on Cline. Members enjoy free tanning, state-of-the-art equipment and fitness classes. Blue Cross' Silver Sneaker program reimburses up to 100 percent of senior membership fees. **INFO:** Call Scott at (219) 789-1067.

INTERSECTION UPGRADE

The Town Council has approved a project to improve the intersection at Fifth and 45th streets by adding left turn lanes to 45th.

The council approved First Group Engineering, of Indianapolis, to create the preliminary design of the federal project, which will include updated traffic signals and streetlights.

Public Works Director John Bach said the project will not begin for two or three years.

INDOOR STREET MARKET

Escape the cold and stop indoors for your favorite breads, fresh local honey, cupcakes, spices, pet treats and more.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **APRIL 12**
The market continues on the second Saturday of the month through May.
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND BACKS SOUTH SHORE

A two-year funding commitment from communities, such as Highland, Munster, Schererville, even tiny Winfield, are paving the way for a commuter rail south to Lowell.

Following a series of votes securing funding commitments from local communities, Gov. Mike Pence inked an agreement to provide \$4 million in state matching funds to begin the Herculean expansion of the South Shore.

The Highland Town Council has committed 20 percent of local option income tax proceeds to the project for the next two years.

Council President Dan Vassar said the agreement was a vote to participate in one of the region's largest economic development projects.

"The commuter rail system in metro Chicago is a perfect example of the link between commuters and economic development," he said. "Wherever these lines are located, prosperity follows. Highland is in an ideal location to benefit from the South Shore expansion." 🌱

FUNDING THE PROJECT

Local communities have pledged a portion of their proceeds from the county option income tax to the expansion of the South Shore.

CITY/TOWN	PLEDGE	% OF PROCEEDS
Dyer	\$53,000	15 percent
Griffith	\$20,000	5 percent
Highland	\$114,000	20 percent
Hobart	\$171,000	18 percent
Lake Station	\$69,120	20 percent
Munster	\$279,623	34 percent
Schererville	\$212,000	34 percent
Schneider	\$1,641	20 percent
Whiting	\$105,000	25 percent
Winfield	\$15,347	25 percent
Lake County	\$2.15 million	25 percent

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District hired AECOM of Los Angeles to develop a environmental impact study, which is the next step before applying for federal assistance to help pay the estimated \$571 million in construction costs. The study will take about 18 months and is expected to cost about \$3 million.

MILESTONE THERAPY BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO FORMER GIRL SCOUT SPACE

A little more than six months ago, Andrew Haverstock was looking to expand and found just the building he was seeking at 2901 Highway Ave.

On March 31, Haverstock moved Milestone Therapy into 7,200-square-foot office/therapy space in the heart of downtown.

The spacious building constructed decades ago as the home of Highland Pharmacy was left vacant in 2007 when the Girl Scouts of the Calumet Council centralized operations in Merrillville.

"We were looking to spread our wings, but it took nearly a year before we found this building in Highland. I knew it was exactly the right place for us," said Haverstock, who holds dual degrees in physical therapy and business.

The business specializes in physical, occupational, developmental and speech therapy for patients under 21 and employs 80 therapists.

While many Milestone therapists work off-site in home or school settings as part of the Indiana and Illinois Early Intervention programs, Haverstock plans to expand on-site services in Highland.

MILESTONE THERAPY

The business specializes in physical, occupational, developmental and speech therapy for children up to age 21 and employs 80 therapists.

WHERE: 2901 Highway Ave. in downtown Highland

INFO: www.milestonetherapy.net

"A majority of our kids have special needs, such as spina bifida and club foot," Haverstock said. "Our goal is to help them become as functionally independent as possible and this space is going to help us do just that."

In the months to come, Haverstock will announce plans to lease the 5,200 square feet on the lower level of the building to a companion business.

"We are thrilled with this building. We incorporated the existing features, such as the green and white tile installed by the Girl Scouts" he said. "When the weather moderates, we will be working to upgrade the adjacent parking lot and have plans to preserve the mature tree that has been part of the parking lot since it was built." 🌱



April 26

PARK PRIDE DAY ...

Join Highland Parks and Recreation for the 13th annual community park clean-up day from 9 a.m. to noon April 26. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for clean-up. Bring gloves, rakes, and energy! Immediately after, meet us at Lincoln Community Center to receive your free T-shirt and enjoy a complimentary lunch.

INFO: Register you or your group at Lincoln Community Center or call Parks & Recreation at (219) 838-0114.

May 13

SPRING CLEAN-UP ...

Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews May 13 to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. Residents are encouraged to schedule their household spring cleaning chores and take advantage of the increased collection crews.

NOT INCLUDED: Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Highland Public Works Facility, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

EARTH DAY 2014

This Earth Day — April 22 — show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycling where you can.

HAZARDOUS WASTE ...

To make your environment safer, recycle hazardous waste at a county collection site: batteries, household cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, pesticides, anti-freeze, gasoline, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs.

INFO: Visit www.lcswmd.com for collection dates and locations.

RECYCLING DRUGS ...

Turn over unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out.

Highland Police Department Coordinator Ken Balon said every time medications are improperly disposed of, there is a risk they will get into the wrong hands or contaminate the drinking water supply.

Highland Police will be participating with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency as a drop-off site for medications from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 26 at the Department, 3333 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call Ken Balon at (219) 838-3184.

THE BEST OF HIGHLAND

Congratulations to the 2014 Best of Highland award recipients.

Civil Servant Award Winners

- 🌿 **Civil Servant:** Cindy Rivera, North Township Trustee Office
- 🌿 **Public Works:** John Bach
- 🌿 **Parks Department:** Laura Wanicki
- 🌿 **Police Department:** John Siple
- 🌿 **Fire Department:** Bill Timmer
- 🌿 **School Town:** Larry Vassar

Chamber Award Winners

- 🌿 **Chamber Board Member:** Carrie Upchurch, Standard Bank & Trust
- 🌿 **Chamber Volunteer:** Doug Lewis, Edward Jones
- 🌿 **Business Person:** Terry Krooswyk, Krooswyk Trucking & Excavating

Beautification Award Winners

Beautification Awards were given to Apex Construction & Remodeling, Cakes by Karen, Christenson Chevrolet, Circle Buick, GMC, Culvers in Highland, Highland Volkswagen, Jane Berland School of Dance (Pat & Nick Popa), Matthew Hunniford & Co. and Strack & Van Til Corporate Office.

Chamber Legacy Award Winner

This year's Best of Highland Legacy Award is dedicated to Norma Fross for her decades of commitment to the Highland business community as owner of the Kiddie Shop.

LEAF & BRANCH PICKUP**Leaf collection**

A leaf crew will go through the town the first two weeks of April to clean up any leftover leaves from fall. Leaves should be raked into a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as close to the street as possible. Please make sure that all vehicles — yours, your neighbor's and your guest's — are not blocking leaf piles at, or near, your residence to make it easier for the crews and their collection equipment.

Branch collection

Crews will be running daily routes to collect branches. Heavier logs and debris will be picked up every Friday. Crews do not pick up landscaping timbers, railroad ties or fencing. Yard waste can be dumped at the town garage at no charge to residents. Anything other than yard waste must be taken to the town garage where residents must obtain a permit.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR

It's time for the spring craft show and vendor fair, featuring candles, jewelry, handbags, home décor, skin care, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **APRIL 12**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

MASTER GARDENING SERIES

Third in a series of complimentary monthly gardening classes, Master Gardener Kathy Kick will present "Landscaping with Native Plants for Four Seasons of Color."

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Thursday, **APRIL 17**

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Call Kathy Deal at (219) 838-2394 or visit www.lcpln.org/branches/hi.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home? Join the community garage sale in conjunction with the Card & Comic Show.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **MAY 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEE: 10' x 10' booth for \$26.75 or 23' X 6' wall space for \$42.80.

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

HIGHLAND HIGH MUSICAL

The Highland Theatre Company presents "Beauty and the Beast," the tale of a prince, who is transformed into a monster as punishment for his selfishness, and the beautiful young woman he imprisons in his castle.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **MAY 9-10** and 2 p.m. **MAY 11**

WHERE: Highland High Monbeck Auditorium

FEE: \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors

INFO: Call the high school at (219) 922-5610.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Highland Parks and Recreation's summer camp engages kids – ages 5 to 12 – in games, crafts, songs, drama, sports activities and field trips. Register your child today for an out-of-this-world summer camp experience.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, **JUNE 2** to **AUGUST 8**. Pre-camp care is from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

WEEKLY CAMP FEE: \$105/\$110

DAILY CAMP FEE: \$25/\$30

WEEKLY PRE-CAMP FEE: \$30/\$35

DAILY PRE-CAMP FEE: \$6/\$7

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana is hosting its 5th Annual Spring 5K at Highland High School.

Part of a national initiative aimed at teaching life skills through dynamic, conversation-based lessons and running games, the program prepares girls in grades 3 through 8 to be physically and emotionally prepared to complete a 5K run.

Since 2007, the program has expanded to include the town's four elementary schools as well as teams at more than 50 Northwest Indiana locations.

Highland residents Jodi Aurand, who is the program director, and her sister, Jill Schlueter-Kim, the executive director for GOTR of Northwest Indiana, have fostered its success, first by bringing it to the area and then by helping it grow from 16 girls in 2007 to more than 1,000 in Lake, Porter, Jasper and LaPorte counties today.

SPRING 5K REGISTRATION

WHEN: 8 a.m. **MAY 17**
Race starts at 10 a.m.

On-site registration, Happy Hair and face painting begin at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High

FEE: \$20 adults, \$15 kids under 16

REGISTRATION:

Online at gotrofnwi.org.
Deadline is **MAY 15**.

INFO: For questions about the 5K, email Jill Schlueter-Kim at gotrofnwi@yahoo.com. For questions about registration, email Jodi Aurand at Jodi@gotrofnwi.com.



POP WARNER SIGN-UPS

Register your child for Highland Pop Warner football, cheer or dance. Must bring child's birth certificate, report and physical. A doctor will be on site to provide physicals for \$15.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, **APRIL 12** and **MAY 10, 17, 31**.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$200 football, \$200 cheer and dance

INFO: Call Mark at (708) 516-4948 for football and Tanya at (219) 677-8070 for cheer/dance.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

Highland Little League is still accepting registrations for its T-ball division and has limited openings in the Rookie, Minor A and Minor B divisions. Eligible players must be age 4 by April 30, 2014 and must reside in Highland or attend a Highland school.

OPENING DAY: Saturday, **APRIL 26**

FORMS: Available online at www.highlandll.com

INFO: Call Highland Little League President Pat Krull at (219) 924-5121.